



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
 8300 Marine Way, Suite 200
 Irvine, CA 92618



COUNTY PREHOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Location: 8300 Marine Way, Irvine CA 92618

EMS Conference Room: AOC-103B

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Theodore Heyming, MD
- Bryan Johnson, MD
- James Price, MD
- Robert Granata, MD
- Joshua Bobko, MD
- Kelly Dodge, MD
- Iksoo Kang, MD
- Eric McCoy, MD
- David Ngo, MD
- Kelly Unger, MD
- Robert Katzer, MD
- Shira Schlesinger, MD
- Julia Afrasiabi, RN
- Laura Cross, RN
- Whitney Patnode, RN
- Jill Patt, RN
- Heidi Ragas, RN
- Jenael Rosenberg, RN
- Abigail Baur, RN

REPRESENTING

- BHPD – Rady Children’s Hospital Orange County
- Orange City Fire Department
- BHPD – Mission Hospital
- BHPD – Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
- Medical Director – OC Fire Authority
- BHPD – Hoag Memorial Hospital
- BHPD – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHPD – UCI Medical Center
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- Medical Director - Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Medical Director - Newport Beach Fire Dept
- BHC – UCI Medical Center
- BHC – Mission Hospital
- BHC – Rady Children’s Hospital Orange County
- BHC – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHC – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHC – Hoag Memorial Hospital
- BHC – OC Global Medical Center

MEMBERS

- Patrick Dibb
- Patty Gleed, RN
- Justin Horner, EMT-P
- Colin Wood
- Bryan Johnson, RN
- Cyndie Strader

REPRESENTING

- EMT Training Programs
- Paramedic Training
- Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
- Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Orange City Fire Dept.
- OC ED Nursing Leadership

HCA/OCEMS STAFF PRESENT

- Almaas Shaikh, MD
- Daniel McDonnell, NRP
- Gagandeep Grewal, MD
- Kristen Karpow, RN
- Jason Azuma, NRP
- Genise Silva, RN
- Fran Cohen, RN
- Chad Cossey
- Drew Bernard
- Carissa Martinez
- Interim EMS Medical Director
- EMS Director
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- EMS Clinical Chief
- EMS OC-MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS Liason
- HCA Program Supervisor II
- EMS Specialist
- Office Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

- Matt Armstrong
- Danielle Ogaz
- Bijan Arab
- Steve Hurdle
- Rhonda Rosati
- Rombod Rahimian MD
- Danielle Ogaz
- Edna Transon
- Laura Derr
- Mildred Cureton
- Ryan Creager
- Danielle Boul

REPRESENTING

- Premier Ambulance
- LA County Fire Department
- Falck
- LifeLine Ambulance
- Fullerton Fire Department
- Huntington Beach Fire
- LA County Fire Department
- Memorial Care Long Beach
- St. Joseph Hospital
- Foothill Medical Center
- Mercy Air
- Brea Fire

NAME

- Desiree Cirino
- Kristen Gates
- Ashley Herrera
- Jocelyn Casillas
- Andrew Tran
- Amanda Collins
- Amanda Ramos
- Shelby Ermis
- Erick Quintanilla

REPRESENTING

- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Rady Children’s Hospital Orange County
- Lynch
- Premier Ambulance
- Falck

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bryan Johnson at 1:07pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New EMS Director Daniel McDonnell
- Around the room introductions with name, title and facility represented

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Action Item: Approval of March 11 2026 Minutes, approved**

IV. **OCEMS REPORT**

- OCEMS Report *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
- The upcoming May 20 State of Health Address, presented virtually by Dr. CK, will cover key county health trends including e-bike injuries, infectious disease updates, and broader public health indicators, with registration available via QR code. The Standing Orders Work Group continues refining and standardizing county standing orders by aligning them with national guidelines, introducing a color-coded format, and bringing several draft revisions forward in this meeting. Anaheim Global's ERC designation remains suspended as the facility works with OCEMS to meet required standards, with updates to follow as progress is made. Discussions on expanding stroke center capacity are ongoing, but major steps including formal needs assessment—will proceed once a permanent EMS Medical Director is appointed, potentially through an external RFP-based evaluation.
- Health Disaster Preparedness Report *by Gagandeep Grewal, MD*

Legislative updates included the APOT Bill, which is currently open for public comment, and AB 1607, aimed at extending funding for key EMS-related programs. The statewide Medical Health Exercise conducted on April 23 was successfully completed, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for May 19 to review after-action items. Additionally, several FEMA and Texas A&M training opportunities will be available throughout the year, offering free disaster-readiness education for EMS and partner agencies.

- ReddiNet Update – Helipad Status *by Kristen Karpow, RN*
Helipad status updates were provided for Hoag, Mission, OC Global (including both the primary pad and the Fire hawk landing zone), UCI Health Orange, and Rady Children's. OC Global will utilize the comment section to clarify which of their two helipads are down and will also send messages to relevant parties.
- Hoag Hospital Irvine New Ambulance Bay opened 05/04/26 *by Kristen Karpow, RN*

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- IO alternate site proposal, update to PR-115 *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
The committee reviewed proposed revisions to the IO alternative site procedure, including clarifying the tibia as an available option rather than the preferred primary site, removing Appendix B from the formal policy, updating diagrams and adjusting pediatric and adult definitions, and reinstating the 60-second lidocaine dwell time for conscious patients. These edits will be incorporated into the next draft and returned to the committee for further review.
 - Magnesium use in pregnancy-related emergencies *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Awaiting state-level guidance before finalizing policy.
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- ALS no contact by cell phone, update to Policy #310.00 *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Updates to the ALS Base Contact policy include authorizing the use of cell phones for ALS-to-base communication when appropriate, reaffirming that pediatric patients should preferably be routed to CCRC base hospitals, and clarifying hospital diversion categories to better differentiate specialty service availability. These refinements aim to streamline field communication, improve destination decision-making, and ensure consistent application of diversion protocols across the county.
- Transport of Police K9 Dogs, update to Policy #309.00 and B-009 *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
The updated policy expands its scope to include all public safety working dogs rather than only police K9s, while reaffirming that handlers remain solely responsible for managing and controlling their animals during EMS interactions. The committee also discussed clarifications regarding the availability and administration of Narcan for potential canine opioid exposures, ensuring responders understand when and how such support may be provided if requested by the handler.
- Update to SO-C-10 (Cardiopulmonary Arrest) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- OCEMS Policy 777.00 Update, 50-Day Comment *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
- Policy #310.30 & 310.31 (Trauma Triage Criteria) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Motion passed to designate improperly restrained peds as trauma patients.
- Meeting schedule *by Daniel McDonnell, NRP*
The committee discussed the challenges created by multiple monthly meetings, including significant travel burden for coordinators and repetitive agenda content across CPAC, the Facilities Advisory Committee, and the Transport Advisory Committee. A proposal was introduced to combine these three groups into a single three-hour meeting on a one-year trial basis, while keeping the Medical Advisory Committee separate. Discussion highlighted concerns about session length, Brown Act compliance, room capacity and parking, and the potential benefits of breakout segments and improved communication between prehospital and hospital stakeholders. Following discussion, a motion passed to present the combined-meeting trial proposal to EMCC for approval.

VII. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Base Hospital Coordinators
No Fear training is scheduled for June at FA Headquarters, and coordinators were encouraged to share the opportunity with their teams. The LVAD program reported its first two patients, with reminders for field crews to bring the patient's go-bag during transport and to avoid chest compressions if the device is functioning.
 - Orange County ED Nursing Leadership
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No updates

- Orange County Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
Monitoring state paramedic licensing challenges.
- Pediatric Collaborative Meeting *–on hold*
No updates
- Facilities Advisory Committee
Motion passed recommending 3-year conditional designation for Kaiser Anaheim.
- Prehospital agencies decide on agenda topic(s)
Potential presentation on EMTALA requested by facilities group.
Any policy issues needing review should be submitted.

VIII. **ROUNDTABLE**

- **EMS Week Proclamation:** Board of Supervisors event next Tuesday—public welcome.
- **UCI Gun Injury Prevention Day:** June 5 with speakers and gun lock distribution.
- **CHOC/Rady's Name Confusion:** Reminder that CHOC and Rady's at CHOC operate together.
- **E-bike Injury Collaborative:** Multiagency safety initiative—open to participants.
- **Training Expansion:** OCEMS exploring offering FEMA, ICS, and in-house educational sessions for prehospital providers and leadership.

IX. **NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 1pm

X. **ADJOURNMENT**- Meeting Adjourned at 2:06pm
